REMARKS

A new Abstract is provided herewith in place of the originally filed Abstract and in consideration of the objections contained on page 2, in the two paragraphs of item 1 of the Action.

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph in the outstanding Action, as being indefinite with respect to the number of dense layers and water repellent layers present as well as the exact order in which they are arranged.

Claims 2 and 5 recite a barrier layer having laminated structure of: water repellent layer/ dense layer/ water repellent layer (as exemplified in FIG. 3). Moreover, claims 3 and 6 recite a barrier layer having laminated structure of: dense layer/ water repellent layer/ dense layer (see FIG. 4).

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 have been amended to clearly recite the ordering of the dense and water repellent layers of the laminated structure.

Appropriate bases for these amendments are supported in part by originally filed claims, and more precisely, by the disclosures of FIG. 3 (page 18, lines 15-23 of the specification) and FIG. 4 (page 19, lines 10-18 of the specification).

Claims 1-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Petrmichl et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,888,593. Claim 13 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Petrmichl et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,888,593 further in view of Thomas et al., WO 93/24243.

After careful study and review of these references in view of Applicant's instantly claimed invention, Applicant states that in these references, coating is carried out on a surface of a glass plate or on a polymeric container used in place of a bottle or the like. It is therefore asserted that in these references do not suggest, teach or remotely disclose the coating being folded up or rolled up.

The present invention, by virtue of its compositional make up, provides a barrier film having advantages not possessed by the prior art of record including both high

barrier properties and high flexibility, thus usable as a packaging material. The present invention, by virtue of the compositional make up as well as ordering of layers, achieve a coating with high barrier properties and high flexibility which are not contemplated or disclosed in these cited references.

Amended claim 1 recites a thin resin film with high flexibility: "a resin film having the thickness in a range of 5 μm to 500 μm" used as a base material film. In order to impart this desired high barrier property while not deteriorating the flexibility of the base material film, the water repellent layers and dense layers of a specific composition and thickness in certain order in relation to each other and as claimed are used. Laminating such water repellent layers and dense layers having these specific compositions, exhibit high barrier property in a thin film which do not to adversely affect the flexibility of the base material film. Thus, a resin film with a thickness in a range of 5 μm to 500 μm is made possible by the invention as claimed.

The compositional make up and order of the water repellent and dense layers making up the claimed barrier film of the present invention which impart both high flexibility and high barrier property are submitted not to be obtained by the techniques disclosed in either of the Petrmichl and Thomas references alone or in combination provided combinations were legally permissible. For these reasons, the present invention as claimed is submitted not to be obvious in view of the teachings of these references.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date: October 17, 2006

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